

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

May 22, 2012

On Wednesday, May 23, 2012, Let's Erase the Stigma Educational Foundation (LETS) in partnership with the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health and the University of California, Berkeley Department of Psychology will host its Second Annual Youth Summit at the California Endowment. This event will give youth a platform to take leadership in mental health and social inclusion.

More than 350 diverse high school students from LA County will spend the day talking openly about mental illness and stigma. The summit will focus on depression, anxiety, stress, eating disorders, bullying, substance abuse, discrimination, school safety, and other issues that create social distance, isolation and exclusion among youth.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among adolescents and sadly, only three out of ten individuals who need help seek help. It is more important than ever to spread the word that mental illness is something that no one should be afraid to talk about.

Let's Erase the Stigma Educational Foundation is an organization for youth. It is dedicated to changing the perception of mental illness through educational programs

MOTION

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RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
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that raise youth interest in mental health where previously there has been little involvement.

Dedicating this annual day to outreach and education will encourage our youth, teachers, friends, families, and health care providers in the Los Angeles Community to support our young people both before and during adolescence when so many psychiatric disorders first become apparent.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim Wednesday, May 23, 2012, as “Let’s Erase the Stigma Youth Day” to honor LETS’ Second Annual Youth Summit and to motivate others to join in erasing the stigma of mental illness.

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